



## Agricultural Commodity Commissions: An Overview

### What is a “commodity commission”?

Agricultural commodity commissions provide the means by which agricultural producers assess themselves and accumulate funds to address some of their industry’s problems and needs. Their popularity is based upon the theory that every producer contributes and benefits in proportion to the volume of the commodity they market.

### How many commodity commissions are in WA state?

Washington has 23 agricultural commodity commissions. For a listing of the commissions, refer to the other side of this brochure.

### How are commodity commissions formed?

Commissions are established either by a separate statute or by the adoption of a marketing order under one of two enabling statutes administered by the Department of Agriculture. In any event, those who would be affected are able to vote whether to establish a commission.

### How are commodity commissions funded?

Commissions are funded almost exclusively by producer assessments, which are approved through referendum by those affected.

### What activities do commodity commissions engage in?

Commodity commissions engage primarily in marketing or research related to a specific agricultural commodity. Depending on the statute or marketing order, a commission may support research that benefits the production, processing, or marketing of the agricultural commodity; promotes the commodity through advertising and promotional campaigns; provides for labeling practices; disseminates information to the industry; or takes measures to prevent unfair trade practices.

### Are commodity commissions considered state agencies?

Yes. And, as governmental agencies, commissions are subject to state laws including the open meetings act, administrative procedures act, ethics law, public disclosure laws, state audit requirements, and others.

*For more information regarding commodity commissions, please visit the Department of Agriculture’s website at:*

<http://agr.wa.gov>

*Most of the agricultural commodity commissions have their own websites as well.*